

What is claimed is:

1. A data distribution system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

5 a recording apparatus for recording said reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining the type of the content data recorded on the recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, the recording medium  
10 mounted in said reproducing apparatus, said reproducing apparatus, the recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus, and said recording apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in  
15 said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus based on results of said examination.

2. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said examining means;

20 examines whether said content data to be distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a  
25 recording medium of a first type having a configuration

enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely,

5               examines whether said reproducing apparatus is a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing after the authentication processing or a reproducing apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that processing, and

10              examines whether said recording apparatus is a recording apparatus of a first type for recording after the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of a second type for recording without that processing.

3.    A data distribution system as set forth in  
15    claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing  
20    apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

4.    A data distribution system as set forth in  
claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the  
25    recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is

said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

5        5.    A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

10        6.    A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is  
15        said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

20        7.    A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

25        8.    A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the

reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing  
5 apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

9. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the  
10 recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

10. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the  
15 reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

20 11. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is  
25 said second recording medium, and said recording

apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

12. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

13. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

14. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

15. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the

content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

5           16. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is  
10       said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

          17. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the  
15       content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

          18. A data distribution system as set forth in  
20       claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus  
25       is said first recording apparatus.

19. A data distribution system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

a recording apparatus for recording said  
5 reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;  
an examining means for examining an owner of the recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, said reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus, and said recording  
10 apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling a transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus based on results of  
15 said examination.

20. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said controlling means disables the transfer when the result of the examination is that the transfer would result in the content data becoming the  
20 property of a different owner.

21. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said controlling means performs predetermined charging and enables the transfer when the result of the examination is that the transfer would  
25 result in the content data becoming the property of a

different owner.

22. A data distribution system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

5 a recording apparatus for recording said reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining elements for which some sort of profits should be distributed relating to the processing of the transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus; and

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a processing means for performing predetermined processing so that said profit is distributed to said elements based on results of said examination.

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23. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said processing means transmits a list of elements for which profit should be distributed to an organization managing profits relating to distribution of said content data.

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24. A data communication system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

a recording apparatus for recording said reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

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an examining means for examining specifications  
of a signal of the content data recorded on the recording  
medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus;  
specifications of a signal of reproduction processing in  
5 said reproducing apparatus, and specifications of a  
signal of recording processing by said recording  
apparatus; and

a signal converting means for converting a  
signal of said content data so that the transfer of said  
10 content data from said recording medium mounted in said  
reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in  
said recording apparatus can be suitably carried out  
based on results of said examination.

25. A data communication system as set forth in  
15 claim 24, further comprising a transmitting means for  
transmitting information relating to conversion of the  
signal to an organization managing profit relating to  
distribution of said content data.

26. A data distribution method comprising the steps  
20 of:

examining types of content data to be  
distributed recorded on a recording medium mounted in a  
reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said  
reproducing apparatus, said reproducing apparatus, a  
25 recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus, and

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5 recording apparatus based on results of said examination.

examines whether said content data to be distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely,

examines whether said reproducing apparatus is  
a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing  
after the authentication processing or a reproducing  
20 apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that  
processing, and

examines whether said recording apparatus is a recording apparatus of a first type for recording after the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of

a second type for recording without that processing.

28. A data distribution method comprising the steps of:

examining owners of a recording medium mounted  
5 in a reproducing apparatus and with content data to be  
distributed recorded thereon, said reproducing apparatus,  
a recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus,  
and said recording apparatus; and

controlling the transfer of said content data  
10 from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing  
apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said  
recording apparatus based on results of said examination.

29. A data distribution method comprising the steps of:

15 examining elements for which some sort of  
profit should be distributed relating to processing for  
transfer of said content data from a recording medium  
mounted in a reproducing apparatus to a recording medium  
mounted in a recording apparatus; and

20 transmitting a list of elements for which said  
profit should be distributed based on the results of said  
examination to an organization for managing the profit  
relating to the distribution of the related content data.

30. A data distribution method comprising the steps  
25 of:

examining specifications of a signal of content  
data recorded on a recording medium mounted in a  
reproducing apparatus, specifications of a signal of  
reproduction processing in said reproducing apparatus,  
5 and specifications of a signals of recording processing  
of a recording apparatus;

converting the signal of said content data so  
that the transfer of said content data from said  
recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to  
10 said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus  
can be suitably carried out based on results of said  
examination; and

recording said converted signal on said  
recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus.

15 31. A data processing apparatus comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content  
data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining types of the  
content data recorded on a recording medium mounted in  
20 said reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in  
said reproducing apparatus, and said reproducing  
apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling the  
reproduction of the content data from said recording  
25 medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus based on

results of said examination.

32. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 31, wherein said examining means;

examines whether said content data to be  
5 distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration  
10 enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said reproducing apparatus is  
15 a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing after the authentication processing or a reproducing apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that processing.

33. A data processing apparatus as set forth in  
20 claim 32, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing  
25 apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

34. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 32, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

35. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 32, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

36. A data processing apparatus comprising:

an examining means for examining elements for which some sort of profit should be distributed relating to reproduction of content data to be distributed from a recording medium mounted in a reproducing apparatus; and

a transmitting means for transmitting a list of elements for which said profit should be distributed as a result of said examination to an organization managing the profit relating to the distribution of the related content data.

37. A data processing method comprising the steps

of:

examining the types of content data to be distributed recorded on a recording medium mounted in a reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, and said reproducing apparatus; and

controlling the reproduction of content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus based on results of said examination.

10 38. A data processing method as set forth in claim 37, wherein said examination;

examines whether said content data to be distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said reproducing apparatus is a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing after the authentication processing or a reproducing apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that

processing.

39. A data processing method comprising the steps of:

examining elements for which some sort of  
5 profit should be distributed relating to reproduction of  
content data to be distributed from a recording medium  
mounted in a reproducing apparatus; and

transmitting a list of the elements for which  
said profit should be distributed as the result of said  
10 examination to an organization for managing profit  
related to the distribution of the related content data.

40. A data processing apparatus comprising:

a recording apparatus for recording content  
data to be distributed on a mounted recording medium;

15 an examining means for examining types of said  
content data, said recording medium, and said recording  
apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling the  
recording of said content data onto said recording medium  
20 based on results of said examination.

41. A data processing apparatus as set forth in  
claim 40, wherein said examining means;

examines whether said content data to be  
distributed is content data of a first type which is  
25 distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a



second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a  
recording medium of a first type having a configuration  
enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by  
5 performing authentication processing or a recording  
medium of a second type having no such configuration and  
enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said recording apparatus is a  
recording apparatus of a first type for recording after  
10 the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of  
a second type for recording without that processing.

42. A data processing apparatus as set forth in  
claim 41, wherein said controlling means disables the  
recording when the result of the examination is that the  
15 content data is content data of said first type, the  
recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is  
said second recording medium, and said recording  
apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

43. A data processing apparatus as set forth in  
20 claim 41, wherein said controlling means disables the  
recording when the result of the examination is that the  
content data is content data of said first type, the  
recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is  
said second recording medium, and said recording  
25 apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

44. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 41, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the  
5 recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

45. A data processing apparatus comprising:  
an examining means for examining elements for  
10 which some sort of profit should be distributed relating to processing for recording content data to be distributed on a recording medium mounted in a recording apparatus; and

a transmitting means for transmitting a list of  
15 elements for which said profit should be distributed as a result of said examination to an organization for managing the profit relating to the distribution of the related content data.

46. A data processing method comprising the steps  
20 of:

examining types of content data to be distributed, a recording medium, and a recording apparatus; and

controlling the recording of said content data  
25 onto said recording medium in said recording apparatus

based on results of said examination.

47. A data processing method as set forth in claim 46, wherein said examination;

examines whether said content data to be  
5 distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration  
10 enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said recording apparatus is a  
15 recording apparatus of a first type for recording after the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of a second type for recording without that processing.

48. A data processing method comprising the steps of:

20 examining elements for which some sort of profit should be distributed relating to processing of recording content data to be distributed on a recording medium mounted in a recording apparatus; and

transmitting a list of elements for which said  
25 profit should be distributed as a result of said

examination to an organization for managing the profit relating to the distribution of the related content data.

49. A data recording medium having a configuration enabling effective read out of recorded data by  
5 authentication processing, comprising a switch for selecting whether the related recording medium is to be used as a recording medium having a configuration enabling effective read out of recorded data by authentication processing or used as a recording medium  
10 not having such a configuration and enabling free read out of the recorded data.